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VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS 2013
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TODD JOHNSON | DAILY 49ER
Freshman industrial design major Daniel Cheung, left, performs tricks while skating to class alongside freshman business management major Jianna Competente, center, and freshman pre-nursing major Misa Nakazawa on Monday.

CSULB skateboarders may see change this fall

The university is trying to change a city municipal code that prohibits skateboarding on campus.

BY COURTNEY TOMPKINS
Managing Editor

Cal State Long Beach students might soon skate to class without fear of being ticketed — as long as they stay outside the lines.

Skateboarding on campus is and has been illegal for years under a city municipal code, but the university is trying to make changes to the policy so students can use skateboards for transportation, according to University Chief of Police Fernando Solorzano.

Even so, the policy would still come with some restrictions on skateboarding, Solorzano said.

In order to change the municipal code, the university needs to provide a detailed plan outlining how it intends to manage the use of skateboards and other wheeled vehicles on campus, according to Vice President of Administration and Finance Mary Stephens.

"The university wants to do whatever they can to encourage people not to drive," Stephens said.

The administration has been working with University Police and facilities management for the past year and a half to create a map of designated pedestrian-only zones on campus, according to Michael Gardner, manager of capital and physical planning at CSULB. University Chief of Police Fernando Solorzano said the University Police have also drafted possible changes to the municipal code that are waiting for approval from the City of Long Beach.

The pedestrian-only zones, which will cover areas with heavy foot traffic, will require students to carry or walk their skateboards, bikes or scooters in those areas.

Stephens said the goal of these designated zones is to ensure the safety of students. Some of the proposed pedestrian-only zones include the quad on upper campus and the Brotman Hall plaza.

Many students, like sophomore communications major Bryant Almendares, said they agreed that skaters should be safe when cruising on campus but thought that the plan could use some improvements.

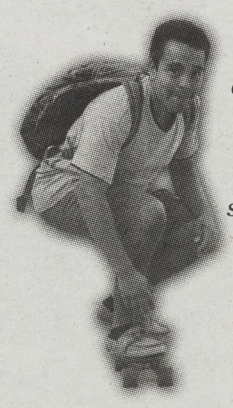
"They should only enforce it during certain times," Almendares said. "I just count on campus being packed in the afternoon so I don't do it. If there was a no-skating time period on upper campus, it would make more sense and people might actually obey it."

Gardner said he thinks that the majority of administration is in favor of allowing students to use skateboards on campus but that there are a few concerns.

"The question is where to draw the line between using it for transportation or use that disrupts people's use of sidewalks and streets," Gardner said.

In the past, students like senior sociology major Larry Zepeda were reprimanded or issued tickets for skateboarding on campus.

"I've had a cop yell at me by Brotman Hall, but I honestly didn't even know it was illegal," Zepeda said. "The only sign I've seen is the temporary one they propped up by Brotman Hall."



Senior construction management major David Lira skates on upper campus Monday.

TODD JOHNSON
DAILY 49ER

See *SKATE*, Page 3

MyCSULB experiences brief stall

Students and faculty are unable to access the website.

BY LUCAS MCMASTER
Contributing Writer

MyCSULB experienced "sporadic slowness" and inaccessibility for a few hours yesterday, leaving professors temporarily unable to access their class rosters for the first day of fall semester.

The problem was caused by "increased semester start-up traffic, along with a combination of web server factors," Vice President of Information Technology Services Janet Foster said via email.

ITS was able to restore MyCSULB yesterday afternoon, but not before the technical hiccup reminded faculty members of last semester's BeachBoard crash.

According to one philosophy professor, Alexander Klein, the

See *MYCSULB*, Page 2

CSU faculty to receive pay increase for 2013-14 year

The CSU and CFA reach an agreement on a salary raise.

BY DONN GRUTA
Assistant City Editor

The Cal State University and California Faculty Association reached an agreement yesterday to provide a 1.34 percent pay increase to eligible full-time equivalent faculty.

According to the memorandum of understanding, which spells out the specifications of the pay increase, Unit 3 members will receive the retroactive pay raise, which begins July 2013. The CSU website defines Unit 3 members as faculty, coaches and librarians.

"We've been negotiating, meeting throughout the summer, and the Chancellor's Office rightly understood where faculty members are

See *STAFF*, Page 2

MyCSULB

Continued from Page 1

problems with MyCSULB were a minor headache compared to the three-day migraine caused by BeachBoard's blackout.

"It was more of an annoyance than anything," Klein said. "I mean, when BeachBoard went down last year, that was a much bigger deal. I administer quizzes, and I have reading assignments and all kinds of stuff on [BeachBoard], which made that episode a complete disaster for me."

Multiple professors said they were unable to access up-to-date class rosters because they couldn't access MyCSULB.

"I tried to go on to get the latest enrollment roster but couldn't log on at all," said English professor Stephen Cooper. "I had one I printed out a few days ago but not having an up-to-date roster on the first day doesn't look good."

Another English professor, Geri Lawson, said she had already printed out her course materials so that she wouldn't have to worry about possible issues with technology on the first day of the semester.

"I didn't even check it at all today," Lawson said.

According to Klein, many faculty members realize that the sudden increase of web traffic at the beginning of the semester and the week before finals oftentimes leads to delayed and inconsistent access to campus technology.

"I kind of love to hate the technology here because the administration is very keen on having professors use technology as much as possible in the classroom," Klein said. "At least that's the impression that I get, and when the technology doesn't work well, it's very annoying."

Yesterday's problems with MyCSULB were not directly connected with last semester's BeachBoard crash, according to Director for Academic Technology Services Leslie Kennedy. She said the programs are provided by two different companies.

MyCSULB is part of the Chancellor's Office's contract with Oracle's PeopleSoft Applications, according to Kennedy. The contract has been in effect since March 2012, and it allows the entire 23-campus system and the Chancellor's Office to consolidate its financial processes into one system.

If anyone on campus experiences additional service issues with MyCSULB, they are encouraged to contact ITS at servicemanagement@csulb.edu.

Amatullah Guyot | Daily 49er

Packed Parking

Rows of parking spaces at the top level of Parking Structure 1 filled with students' cars on Monday. Many students said it was very difficult finding parking on the first day of fall classes.

Staff

Continued from Page 1

coming from," CFA Spokesman Brian Ferguson said. "We're happy with the agreement, and we think it's a long time coming in getting our faculty the much needed raise."

CSU employees have not received a pay increase since 2007. The CFA spent more than two years negotiating with the CSU for lost pay raises, but the two groups came to an agreement last August that included no salary increases.

According to the CFA website, "when Gov. Jerry Brown included a $125.1 million funding increase in his proposed budget last January, CSU Chancellor Timothy White announced that if the extra funding came through he would allocate $38 million to raises for employees."

On June 28, Brown signed the 2013-14 state budget, giving the CSU the additional state funding as well as reimbursing the $125 million that was cut from last year's budget.

According to CSU Spokesman Mike Uhlenkamp, the CSU is still bargaining with other unions for possible pay increases but has yet to reach an agreement with them.

"It's the first time in several years that we would be able to give our employees a salary increase," Uhlenkamp said. "It's important to us to be able to reward the hard work of faculty members, and we're hoping to be able to reach a similar agreement with the other representing groups."

Ferguson said that CFA is very happy with the outcome and how swiftly the CSU conducted the negotiations considering bargaining started in July.

"This definitely puts the faculty members in the needed road to recovery in terms of getting some salary relief," he said. "We look forward to continuing this trend as we go into full bargaining negotiations on a successor agreement in 2014."

Cal State Long Beach faculty said any bump in their salary is a good sign.

"It's definitely time to get an increase because honestly, we are not overpaid here — especially at [CSULB] — so every little bit is appreciated," said Andreas Bill, a professor in the physics and astronomy department. "Given the fact that it's been six years since the last increase, I think it could be more, but at least it's stopping the decay of the value of our income."

Greg Armento, a librarian at the reference desk, shared a similar sentiment.

"I'm glad to see a small increase; I'm sure everybody is," he said. "I hope they can do better, but I'm glad to see something happening. It's been several years for all of us — for everybody else on campus, I think. So I'm hoping the CFA can work on something with the CSU, and we'll all do better."

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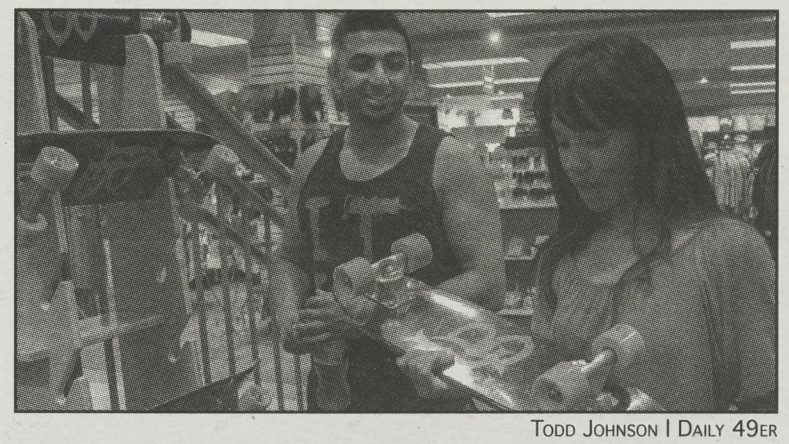


TODD JOHNSON | DAILY 49ER

Nursing graduate student Yossyanne Simbolon, right, inspects the modern-retro cruiser board sold at the campus bookstore with junior nutrition major Ahmed Eldeib on Monday.

SKATE

Continued from Page 1

Solorzano said that tickets have been issued for "gross negligence," such as skating quickly downhill or moving dangerously close to pedestrians.

However, Solorzano said that his goal has recently changed from enforcement to a warning campaign.

"We now understand that skateboards are being used a lot more as a means of transportation to get students from point A to point B rather than just as a toy," he said. "We've been working very diligently to make proper adjustments so that students will be allowed to do so."

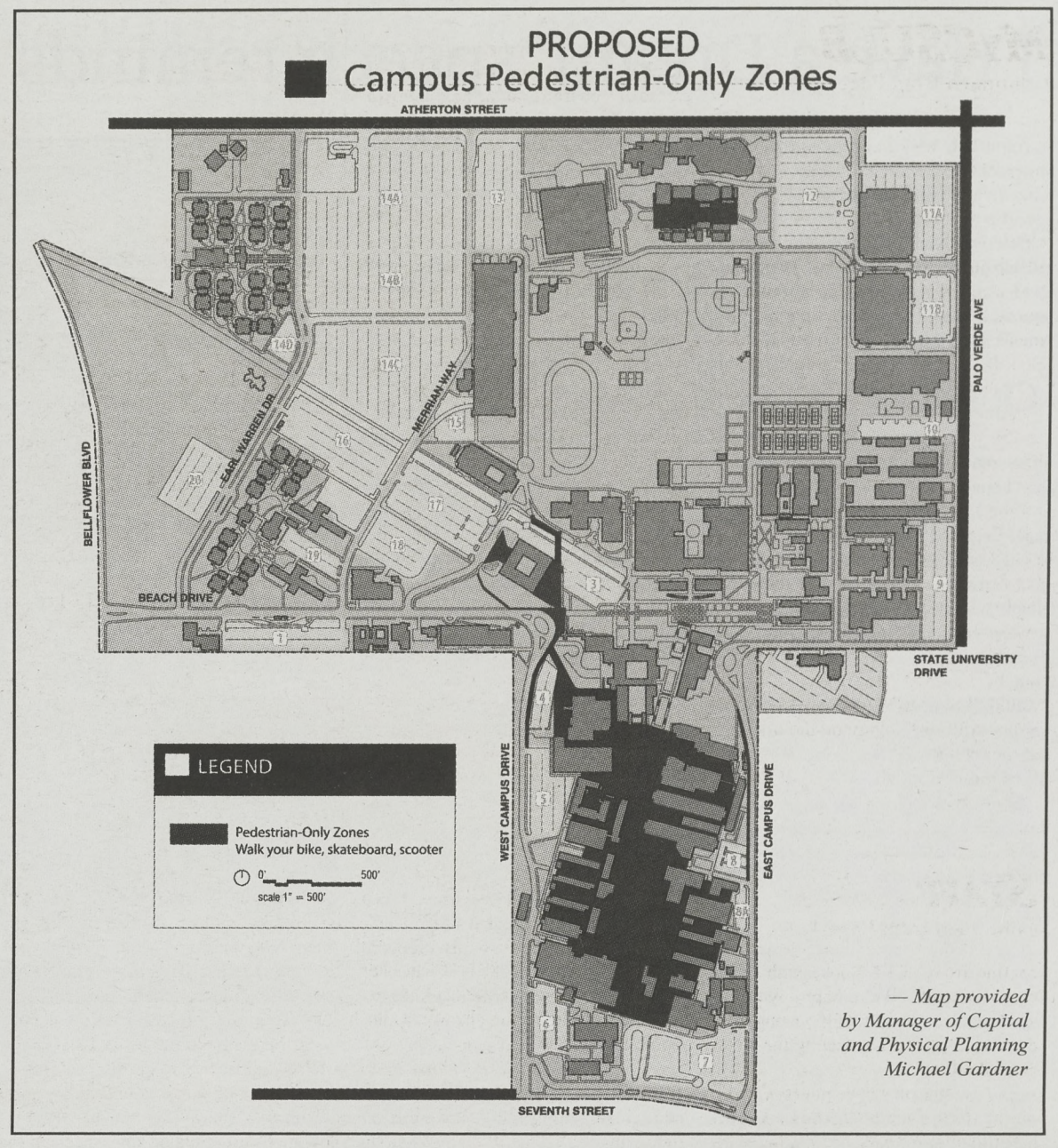
Despite the current policy in place, 49er Shops has partnered with Ditch Skateboards to create a board with a custom CSULB design, which is now available in the University Bookstore. The boards are meant for cruising or transportation and are not typical trick boards, according to Co-founder of Ditch Skateboards Winston Tseng.

Tseng said the timing of the partnership is ironic because skateboard use is currently prohibited on campus, but he hopes it will help change the stigma about skateboarding.

"Maybe these [skateboards] will hopefully push skateboarding to not be seen as a destructive act only and that it can be used for transportation," Tseng said. "Despite certain rules and regulations, I think our product will really resonate with the students there."

The university's plan still needs to be reviewed by students and administration again before it can be finalized, according to Stephens. She said she plans to meet with student representatives to receive feedback from them sometime soon.

Students should see the policy change sometime this fall, according to Stephens.



— Map provided by Manager of Capital and Physical Planning Michael Gardner

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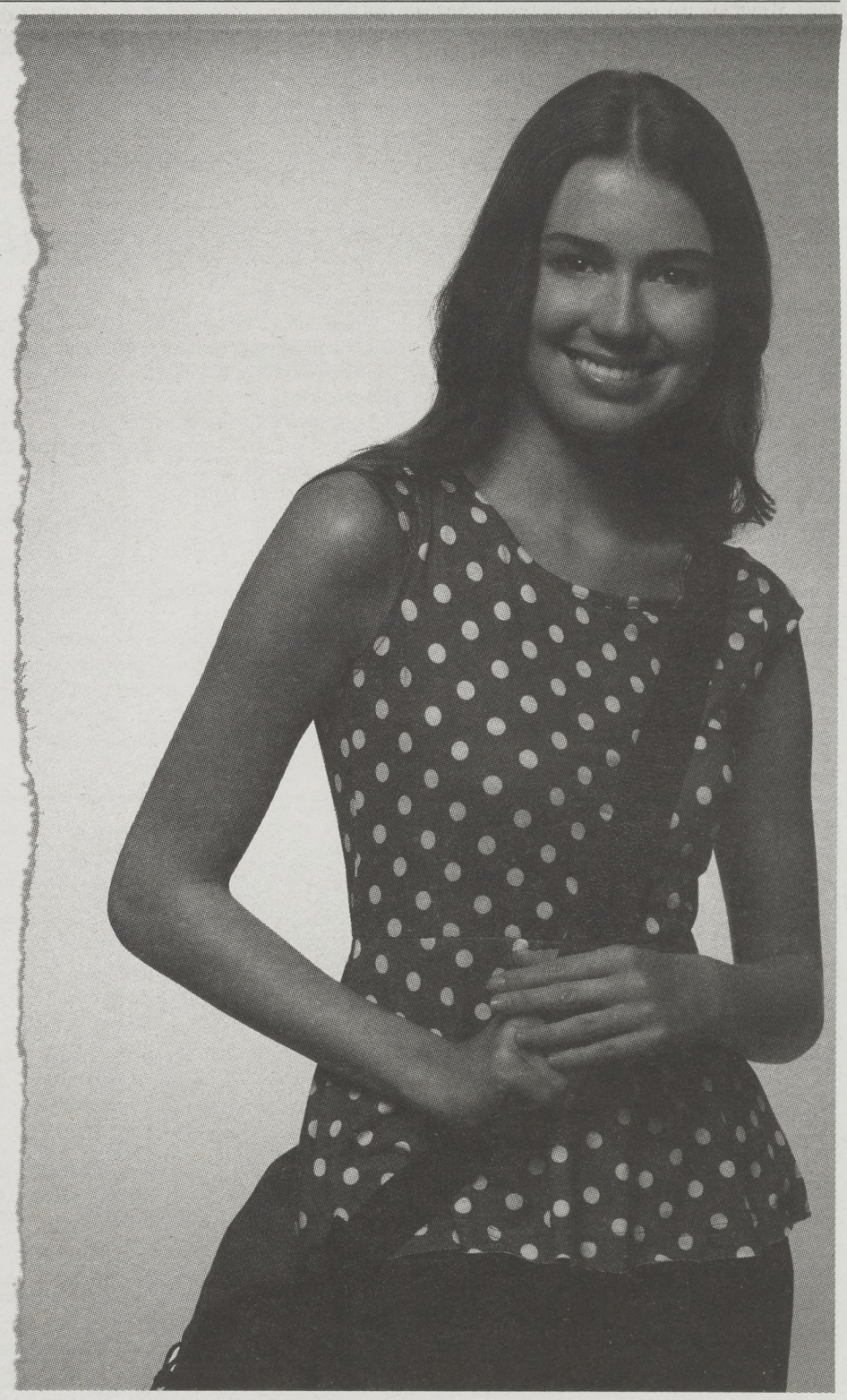
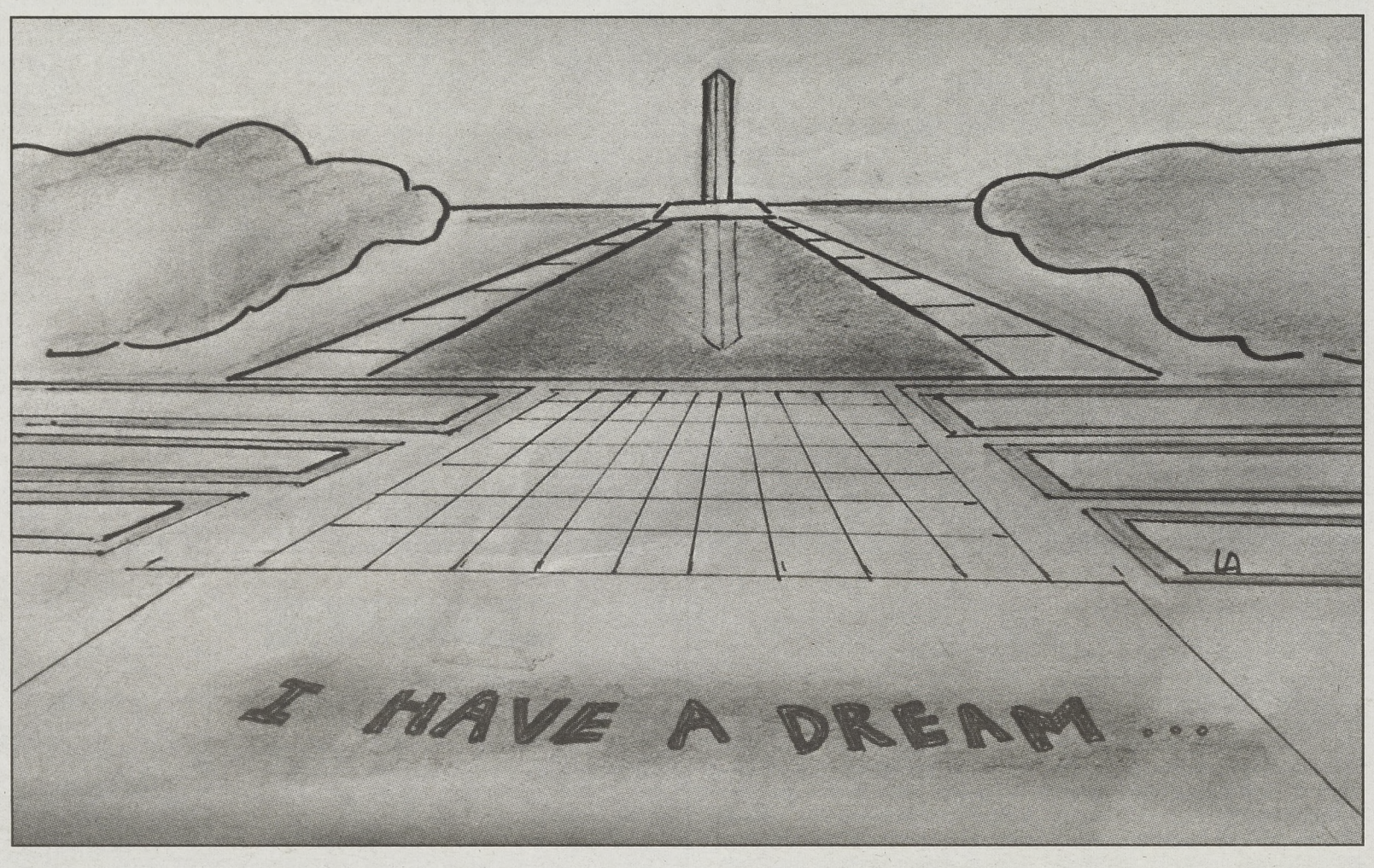


'I Have a Dream' speech reminds us of inequality today



Tomorrow will mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Heard by nearly a quarter-million people in Washington, D.C., King's speech was one of the most important events in civil rights and American history.

Our View

In his speech, King spoke of a U.S. that had treated blacks as less than equal.

"The life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination," King said. "The Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land."

As many know, King's speech spoke of the racial inequalities present in 1963 and his dream for the future.

While we acknowledge that the U.S. has come a long way since 1963, we still think there's a lot of progress to be made.

Considering the inequalities that the lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual (LGBT) community faces, our country needs to fight for full equality for all Americans, regardless of race or sexual preference.

In 1963, the U.S. was a radically different country from what it is today. At the time of King's speech, then-President John F. Kennedy watched over what was arguably the nation's largest series of civil rights protests.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 had not yet passed and many blacks in the South still had to complete literacy tests before voting.

Looking back at the past 50 years, it's clear that the U.S. has made many positive changes.

Literacy tests and poll taxes are a thing of the past.

But although King's speech was largely about the struggles that many blacks faced at the time, his message can be applied to other minorities in the U.S.

When the Supreme Court repealed key aspects of the Defense of Marriage Act in June, many LGBT couples were elated.

The court's verdict on United States v. Windsor ruled that same-sex couples can receive federal benefits in states where same-sex marriage is legal.

But still, even though this was a victory for some, it did nothing for same-sex couples who live in states where same-sex marriage is illegal.

We think the U.S. needs to promote equality for same-sex couples if King's vision is to be fully realized.

While we should be proud of the advances we've made, we should not be complacent.

Further reforms can be achieved if we continue to make our voices heard.

As King said, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle."

San Diego Mayor Bob Filner's alleged failings have hurt his career

Nicolas Rodriguez

Following allegations of sexual misconduct, San Diego Mayor Bob Filner will resign from his post on Friday.

While it's good that Filner decided to step down, his alleged indiscretions have clearly disgraced the mayor's office of San Diego.

His alleged failings have effectively undermined the authority and influence of the job.

To really understand the nature of how surprising the allegations against Filner are, one must look at Filner's political career.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Filner served as a board member for the San Diego Unified School District.

Later, Filner was elected to California's 50th District, just south of San Diego.

He remained a congressman until deciding to run for mayor of San Diego in 2012.

Given Filner's background and experience, one would expect that the choice to sexually harass one's co-workers or constituents would be seen in a negative light.

Unfortunately, this was not the case.

So far, a total of 18 women have come forward claiming that Filner had sexually harassed them in some way or form.

Some of the accusers in the case against Filner include Emily Gilbert, a Marilyn Monroe impersonator.

"He grabbed me a little too tight, then proceeded to slide his hand down my arm and then did a little grab on my derriere," Gilbert said.

"I didn't want to make a scene. There were kids around," she added.

Another accuser was 67-year-old Peggy Shannon, who claimed that Filner would hug and kiss her repeatedly.

A third woman who works as a nurse said that Filner demanded she go out on dates with him in exchange for helping a U.S. Marine.

The nurse said that helping the Marine depended on her willingness to be seen in public alongside Filner.

Before his announcement that he would resign this week, Filner uploaded a YouTube video on July 11 that responded to the sexual harassment allegations.

"You have every right to be disappointed in me," Filner said. "I only ask that you give me an opportunity to prove I am capable of change."

Even though Filner entered therapy, evidence would show that he was not capable of changing his ways. He left therapy a week early.

As more women come forward and accuse him of misdeeds, Filner's credibility will continue to crumble in a way far more detrimental in comparison to the Anthony Weiner scandal.

At least Weiner had the decency to resign three weeks into the accusations made against him.

Unlike Weiner, Filner will hopefully not be inspired to run for office again.

With his credibility in the tubes, it's highly unlikely that he will return to politics.

Nicolas Rodriguez is a senior political science major and an assistant opinions editor at the Daily 49er.

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'Definitely Maybe' anniversary sparks fond memories of Britpop

Aug. 29, 1994 is a date that will live in infamy for many fans of the Britpop music scene.

On that day, British rock band Oasis released its debut album, "Definitely Maybe."

Composed of 11 tracks that came to define the Britpop scene, "Definitely Maybe" is easily one of the most influential albums of all-time.

Thursday's anniversary will likely spark fond memories among fans of a time when the British music industry changed forever. Although the times of Britpop are long gone, the roots of the influential genre still linger.

According to **Dictionary.com**, Britpop is defined as a genre of "popular music of the mid 1990s, influenced by 1960s British groups such as the Beatles."

To put it simply, Britpop was Britain's answer to America's grunge movement. Embracing optimism and a sense of adoration towards bands like The Kinks, Britpop produced some of the finest rock music the world had seen.

When Oasis joined the movement as a newcomer in 1994, Britpop had failed to find an act that was capable of reaching its full potential.

By the time Oasis came into Britpop, a breath of revitalization was desperately needed.

Led by brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher, Oasis brought a level of confidence that no one had expected.

With perceptive lyrics, brilliant melodies and one of the greatest lead singers of all-time, Oasis was the change that Britpop needed.

The five-minute rock epic "Rock 'N' Roll Star" starts the album. With one fell swoop, Oasis shocked many with its loud, rash and raucous sound. It's quite evident that guitarist Noel Gallagher was hell-bent on putting rock back into the Britpop genre.

Reminiscent of former Sex Pistols lead singer John Lydon, Liam Gallagher's vocals epitomized the extreme confidence that the band carried. His singing style, a reflection of his own personality, would be a defining force within the band for years to come.

What is evident in "Rock 'N' Roll Star" and other songs on the album is the sound of angst and desperation. From the song's opening chord, it is evident that the five members of the band — the Gallaghers, drummer Alan White, guitarist Paul "Bonehead" Arthurs and bassist Tony McGuigan — are young men in search of answers.

Within the song's lyrics, Noel Gallagher writes of the benefits that individualism and self-confidence brings. Rather than fit in with other groups, Noel Gallagher urges listeners to blaze their own path in life.

SHANE NEWELL

While the sound is not polished, its roughness and grittiness is indicative of the band's true nature.

"Live Forever," the third track, may be Oasis' finest contribution to Britpop. A perfect blend of melody and lyrics, "Live Forever" was the definitive anthem for the generation growing up in the early 1990s.

Instead of jumping on other artists' coattails, Noel Gallagher directly contrasted his lyrics with those of songs like "I Hate Myself and Want to Die" from Nirvana.

Instead of spreading pessimism, Noel Gallagher expressed an optimism that was relatively unheard of at the time.

Following "Live Forever," the next two songs on the album — "Up in the Sky" and "Columbia" — further highlighted the band's ability to create memorable songs.

If "Live Forever" was the anthem for the generation growing up in the 1990s, then "Supersonic" was its rally cry.

Led by an impressive riff and easily singable lyrics, "Supersonic" was Oasis' signature radio hit.

What made Oasis unique was its ability to identify with the common man and woman.

"Cigarettes and Alcohol," a raucous T. Rex-inspired track, spoke volumes about the '90s generation.

Although many of its fans are approaching middle-age, "Definitely Maybe" is a young person's album.

It's the brashness that defines this record and what has made it one of the most influential rock albums of all time.

Shane Newell is a junior journalism major and the opinions editor of the Daily 49er.

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What Your Teachers Never Taught You

Censorship – Dr. George A. Kuck

What do you think of when you think of censorship? Do you think of the Germans and the Russians burning books in the 1930's to purge their literature from culturally unacceptable thoughts? That was blatant censorship that everyone recognizes. What about the subtle, most insidious form of censorship – that of leaving out critical information when needed for an informed decision?

Major media has a problem of not providing information that is needed to make important decisions. Do you realize that the top 1% of the wage earners pay one-third of the income taxes in the US. The bottom 50% of the wage earners with incomes as high as $34,000 pay 2.3% of the collected taxes. With earned income credit, many in the bottom 50% receive refunds larger than their taxes. When is the last time you heard these numbers reported?

With the Internet, your generation has the ability to overcome subtle censorship by using Google - or does it? Try a test for yourself. Before the 2010 election I published a YouTube video "Why I am a Republican." Try a Google search with the title and my name. There were multiple references to "Why I am a Democrat" but not to "Why I am a Republican" in the first ten pages of a search. Google is a very active supporter of the Democrat party. In a BING search with the same words, the video was at the top. What was your experimental result?

Each summer, the "Multicultural Center" bulletin board states "Read a Banned Book for the summer." For the list, the board presents the Roman Catholic banned book list that warns of books that have little or no redeeming value. Do you realize that the most banned book in the world, the Bible, is not on the Bulletin Board? People are killed for possessing a Bible.

Look around you and listen. Can you identify any other areas of censorship that are blatant and/or culturally driven by the right or left side of the political spectrum?

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In case you missed the VMAs...

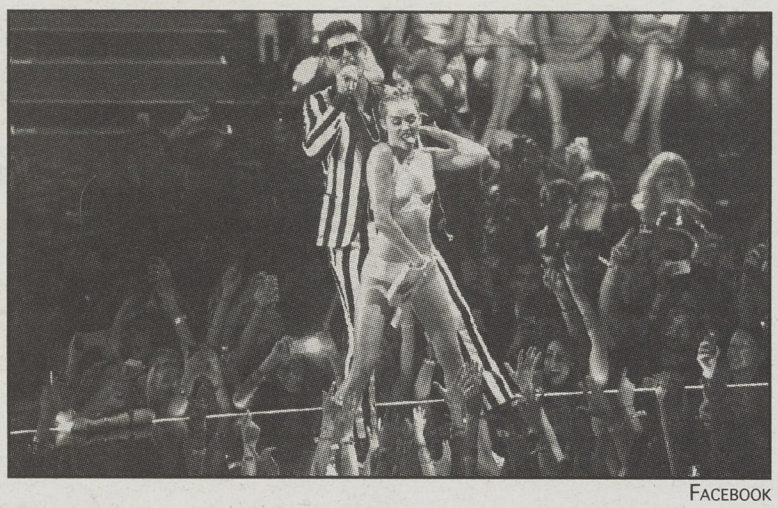
The 30th annual Video Music Awards took place on Sunday night at 9 p.m., bringing to stage some of the most trendy, successful and outrageous artists in the music industry.

By Danielle Carson
Diversions Editor

The day before classes begin is usually a busy one, and many a student may have missed out on watching the MTV Video Music Awards. Anyone who wasn't watching missed a few reunions and surprises, as well as a big disgrace.

Lady Gaga showed more than just her costume creativity when she opened the ceremony. Her vocal talent emerged as she belted lyrics to "Applause." Her performance was theatrical, and her facial expressions and dance moves changed as often as her costumes did — four times — from sequined black body suits to sparkling blazers, finally finishing in a bikini made of seashells and flowers.

But for once, Gaga and her showstopping attire weren't the hottest gossip after this year's VMAs. Miley Cyrus strutted on stage in a one-piece furry teddy bear leotard. Throughout her performance, she stuck out her tongue and danced provocatively. Her vocals were poor enough to humiliate the audience as she sang her single "We Can't Stop," but it was evident that her main concern was to show some skin once she ripped off her leotard outfit, revealing skin-colored underwear. The camera panned



Facebook

Robin Thicke performs "Blurred Lines" with the help of Miley Cyrus.

toward rapper Drake as he sat in the audience with his head down.

While Cyrus didn't win a Moonman award, she most certainly expected it. She told MTV News, "It's going to be super dope when I win my VMA, my Moonman …" after tweeting a photo of herself licking the metal trophy.

Twitter users were shocked, disgraced and enraged at the former Disney star.

Robin Thicke entered the stage as she finished to perform his hit single "Blurred Lines" and stood rigid as Miley danced on and around him while stroking him and herself with a large foam finger. He smiled professionally in their photos, and their performance together was cordial, but by his stoic stature and unadventurous performance with the clearly excited Cyrus, it appeared he was trying to stay as aloof as possible.

Taylor Swift made a suggestive remark about her song "I Knew You Were Trouble" after winning the award for Best Female Video. The cameraman seemed to recognize the affiliation and transitioned to a shot of One Direction's Harry Styles after Swift said that the inspiration for her song "knows who they are."

Macklemore and his producer, Ryan Lewis, were favorites among both the crowd and the community, as they won two "Moonman" awards, one for Best Hip-hop Video and the other for Best Video with Social Message, "Same Love" featuring Mary Lambert. Their six VMA nominations earned them the title of "most nominated indie VMA act ever," according to MTV. Known for lyrics that hit home and unique singles such as "Thrift Shop," Macklemore and his fans are proud that an independent artist has dominated the charts.

Upon receiving his award, he said, "They let some independent artists up here at the VMAs."

Perhaps the most exciting moment was when quadruple-award winning Justin Timberlake was awarded the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award and surprised the audience when the members of the group that started his music career, N'sync, appeared onstage.

The crowd went wild as the group, who last appeared on the VMAs in 2001, played short snippets of "Girlfriend" and "Bye Bye Bye." Despite the lengthy hiatus, the members jumped around and performed moves as if they were as youthful as ever.

The awards closed with Katy Perry's performance of her new hit single, "Roar." Perry separated herself from the other scantily dressed performers as she sang on the stage by Brooklyn Bridge Park, which had been transformed into a boxing ring. She jumped rope and flexed her muscles as she sang "You're gonna hear me roar."

Happy Hours

Week of August 27

District Wine
Monday - Saturday
2 - 7 p.m.
144 Linden Ave.
The lounge offers more than 30 wines, imported beers and an array of appetizers.

Panama Joe's
Tuesday
All day
5100 E Seconnd St.
Enjoy taco Tuesday deals with margaritas priced from $3 to $7.

Alex's Bar
Wednesday
3 p.m.
2913 E. Anaheim St.
Alex's Bar is set up perfectly for music aficionados and beer lovers. Every Wednesday, it's $3 pint night with no-cover rock 'n' roll karaoke beginning at 9 p.m.

Claire's
Thursday
3 - 8 p.m.
2300 E. Ocean Blvd.
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Month:

AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.
DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BIG WEST STANDINGS

	OVR.	CONF.
Cal Poly	2-0	0-0
UC Davis	1-0	0-0
UC Santa Barbara	1-0	0-0
Cal State Fullerton	1-1	0-0
UC Irvine	1-1	0-0
UC Riverside	1-1	0-0
LONG BEACH STATE	0-1	0-0
Cal State Northridge	0-2	0-0
Hawaii	0-2	0-0

Weekend Results

Northern Arizona 1, at LONG BEACH STATE 0
at Cal Poly 3, Loyola Marymount 0
Cal Poly 5, at Cal State Bakersfield 2
at Brigham Young 1, Cal State Fullerton 0
at Cal State Fullerton 1, Fresno State 0
at Arizona State 2, Cal State Northridge 0
at UCLA 3, Cal State Northridge 0
UNC Greensboro 1, Hawaii 0 (2OT)
Central Florida 2, Hawaii 0
at UC Davis 1, Sacramento State 0
California 3, at UC Irvine 1
at UC Irvine 2, UNLV 0
UNLV 3, at UC Riverside 2
UC Riverside 2, San Jose State 1 (OT)
at UC Santa Barbara 2, Fresno State 0

Big West Leaders

GOALS
1. E. Krieghoff (Cal Poly).....5
2. N. Ledezma (UC Irvine).....2
3. T. Lockett (UC Riverside).....2
4. S. James (UC Irvine).....1
5. S. Lancaster (Cal Poly).....1

ASSISTS
1. K. Held (Cal Poly).....2
2. A. Gianetti (Cal Poly).....1
3. M. Mazurek (UC Davis).....1
4. J. Zander (Cal Poly).....1
5. C. Privett (UC Irvine).....1

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2. N. Ledezma (UC Irvine).....4
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SAVES
1. L. Maricic (Cal State Fullerton).....14
2. A. Gianetti (Cal Poly).....11
3. E. Silas (UC Riverside).....7
4. R. Harper (Cal State Northridge).....3
5. J. Randazzo (UC Irvine).....3

Big West Players of the Week

OFFENSIVE: Elise Krieghoff (Cal Poly)

The 2012 Big West Freshman of the Year picked up right where she left off, as she scored four goals in a road win over Cal State Bakersfield on Sunday. Krieghoff also scored a goal and had an assist in the Mustangs' season opener against Loyola Marymount.

DEFENSIVE: Taylor Jern (UC Davis)

Junior goalkeeper Taylor Jern earned her first shutout of the year in a season-opening 1-0 win over Sacramento State. It was the second shutout of her career.

COMMENTARY

AMATULLAH GUYOT | DAILY 49ER

Celeste Dominguez (6), Mimi Rangel (15) and Hannah Reed (11) are three of five freshmen who started for Long Beach State on Friday.

LBSU will experience some growing pains this year

JASON CLARK
Sports Editor

It's a common problem to have in college sports: key players graduate, leaving a multitude of holes in a starting lineup.

That problem, however, is what keeps college sports interesting. It's what prevents schools not named Alabama from reeling off championship after championship like the New York Yankees. It's what opens up opportunities for new players to fight their way to the top.

In the case of the Long Beach State women's soccer team, there are a whole lot of players starting their journey to the top this season. Thirteen freshmen are on the roster, and five started in Friday's game against Northern Arizona: two forwards, one midfielder, one defender and a goalkeeper.

For the most part, the youth didn't seem to hurt The Beach. Sure, it would have been nice to have the creative ability of Nadia Link or the defensive leadership of Alex Balcer, both of whom graduated last year, but that's what happens. People graduate.

LBSU head coach Mauricio Ingrassia said the biggest issue in Friday's season opener was a lack of composure in the second half. He said the team seemed panicked, and that age likely had a lot to do with it.

Friday's lack of efficiency on offense (the 49ers lost 1-0 despite outshooting NAU 13-4) was one of many growing pains The Beach will likely experience this year.

When nearly half of a starting lineup is seeing its first minutes of collegiate soccer, there are bound to be some cohesion issues, no matter how much talent is on the field.

Sophomore forward Elizabeth Lyons said that the 49ers just couldn't seem to hone in on a perfect final pass during Friday's game, limiting their opportunities to score. With two freshmen joining her at forward this year, it's going to take a couple months before Lyons and her teammates can develop enough on-field chemistry to become a consistent source of goals.

The 2013 season could get off to a rough start for The Beach. Of the team's first three games, Friday's was the most winnable.

Next up for the 'Niners is a road trip to Santa Clara and Texas Tech, both of whom made it into the second round of last year's NCAA tournament. It's quite possible that the 49ers won't see their first win until they host Cincinnati on Sept. 6.

However, if an 0-3 start doesn't prove to be too much of a setback, LBSU still has the talent to compete for a Big West Conference title.

The 49ers' nonconference schedule is once again much more difficult than their Big West slate. They will face three ranked opponents and will travel to a few tough road environments at Georgia, Auburn and San Diego.

The philosophy that a difficult nonconference schedule will best prepare teams for Big West play seems to be embraced by all of the coaches at LBSU, and so far, it's working. LBSU has won three consecutive Commissioner's Cups, establishing it as the school to beat in the Big West.

There is no reason to believe that strategy won't work again for this year's women's soccer team.

The obstacle of having such a young team could be tough to overcome, but it's far from impossible.

For example, three of the five starters on Kentucky's 2011-12 national championship basketball team were freshmen. The other two were sophomores.

The difference between LBSU women's soccer and Kentucky basketball is that the 49ers don't have top-five recruits coming in every year. But they also don't have top-five draft picks leaving every year.

While the initial stages of the 2013 season could be rough, this freshman class is building a foundation that is intended to lead The Beach to much more success in coming years. And when they all graduate, this process will start all over again.

It's what keeps college sports interesting.

LONG BEACH STATE FRESHMEN

Cynthia Diaz.....GK	Mimi Rangel.....MF
Ashton McKeown.....GK	Carly Lake (redshirt).....MF/D
Mimi Akaogi.....D	Ashley Webb.....F
Celeste Dominguez.....F	Savannah George.....F/MF
Paige Conway.....F	Shea Hoover.....F/MF
Hannah Reed.....F/D	Regan Smithers.....D
Whitley Boller.....MF/D	

GK: goalkeeper; D: defender; F: forward; MF: midfielder

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